

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health . .

For the Year 1943

Romsey & Stockbridge
Rural District Council



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ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Romsey & Stockbridge Rural District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Romsey and Stockbridge
Rural District Council

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1943.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (Acres)	.....	83,672
Population (as estimated by the Registrar General)	.....	22,680
Rateable Value	.....	£125,995
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£526.75
Number of Council Houses	420

VITAL STATISTICS.

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Live Births—	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	176	187	363	} Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 17.3.
Illegitimate	16	14	30	
Still Births	7	5	12	
				} Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)—29.
Deaths	126	127	253	} Death rate per 1,000 estimated population 11.1.
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth.				
				} From Sepsis 0.
				} From other causes 5.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	30.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	27.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	.....	66
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	41
Deaths from Measles	.....	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	.....	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2	.....	0

The death rate and the infant mortality rate is low. The birth rate is a little above the average.

Of all causes of death, heart disease accounted for 57, Cancer 41, Pneumonia 7, Tuberculosis 12, Cerebral Haemorrhage 16, Bronchitis 8, and Influenza 7.

Deaths from Cancer and Pulmonary Tuberculosis are above the average. Deaths from other causes are about average.

The Health of the School and Welfare child has improved. School meals are a good thing under war conditions and the children have received much benefit from them, but I think, they should be limited in peace time, in the case of younger children, to those living far from school and those with inefficient mothers. Going home at mid-day makes a break in the school day and is beneficial, especially in the case of the younger children.

Illegitimate births—30, *i.e.*, about one in every thirteen births is illegitimate.—The average number of illegitimate births is about 15. The discipline and training at schools do not make up for the lack of it at home. This defective training from an early age accounts for the lack of control by mothers of their girls of 13, 14 and 15. Instruction in sex will not replace the restraining and protective influence of mothers.

With the raising of the school age, more time could be spent in teaching practical cookery and housewifery. Good food and a well run home increase the prestige and influence of the mother. It is cheering to notice that much thought has been given to the designing of the kitchens in the proposed new houses.

Many of the men who work in the towns seem anxious to stay on in the country, but the women are not so keen, living in caravans, temporary buildings, etc. To house these people additional houses might be grouped in certain areas, *e.g.*, Awbridge, Broughton, West Wellow and near Crampmoor. Many of the men are skilled mechanics, and with the increased mechanisation of farms, it will be an advantage to have recruits from children of men interested in machinery. The amenities which could be provided by grouping the houses, would compensate for the short distance some of the farm workers would have to cycle to work. If the small holdings, which may be provided were grouped in certain areas such as Wellow and Sherfield English, they could be run on a co-operative basis.

SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services.

(1) *Nursing in the Home.*

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority.

(2) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The County Laboratory provides facilities for chemical and bacteriological examination.

An Emergency Public Health Laboratory has been established at Winchester for an area that includes the Romsey and Stockbridge districts.

(3) *Hospitals.*

(a) Romsey District.

Romsey Emergency.

Broadlands Annexe.

(b) INFECTIONS. Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted by arrangement to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital, cases in the Redbridge, Millbrook and Chilworth areas are admitted to the Southampton Isolation Hospital.

(4). *Air Raid Casualty Services.*

These are under the control of a Joint Committee formed of representatives from Romsey Borough and Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

Medical Officer i/c Casualty Services : Dr. T. P. Lalonde.

(5) *Scabies Clinic.*

There were a very few cases before the outbreak of war, but owing to an increase in the number of cases a Scabies Clinic was opened in October, at the Gas Cleansing Station, Love Lane, Romsey, which was adapted for the purpose. Staff—The Health Visitor, Miss Lane and Mr. and Mrs. Kemp.

7 men, 28 women and 71 children were treated.

All members of the family are treated, those with evidence of Scabies get two treatments, others one. There were no return cases except in the case of three families, where all the members had not attended for treatment.

SECTION E.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Water Supplies.

The following Parishes have a constant supply of water from the Southampton Corporation Mains. Ampfield, Chilworth, Michelmersh, Millbrook, North Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, and Romsey Extra, and the table below shows the number of houses in each Parish and the approximate number connected to the mains.

	Number of houses.	Number of houses on main supply.
Ampfield-.....	283	173
Chilworth.....	171	140
Michelmersh	340	123
Millbrook	1,257	1,120
North Baddesley	318	300
Nursling and Rownhams	496	333
Romsey Extra	408	93

The area in Ampfield around the village of Knapp, including the School, consisting of 73 houses, relies entirely upon wells and is very short of water during the periods of drought. The extension of the mains through the village would be a great improvement.

There are several Private Estate supplies providing a piped supply of water for approximately 250 houses, these are in the Parishes of Ashley, King's Somborne, Houghton, Broughton, Buckholt, West Tytherley, Leckford, Lockerley, Longstock, Melchet Park and Plaitford, Mottisfont and Nether Wallop, but only about 13% of the houses in these Parishes have a piped supply from these sources.

The Parish of Frenchmoor has a constant piped supply owned by the District Council, the water being purchased in bulk from the Norman Court Estate.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Cesspools and Septic Tanks are in general use throughout the whole of the area, except in the Parish of Millbrook, where some houses are connected to sewers by arrangement with the Southampton

Corporation, the remainder of the buildings in this Parish have cess-pools and these are emptied by the District Council's Contractor and a special rate is levied on the Parish for this purpose.

There has again during the year been many complaints of overflowing cesspools in the Parish of North Baddesley.

Public Cleansing.

The following Parishes have refuse collections:—Ampfield, King's Somborne, Houghton, Broughton, Chilworth, Lockerley, East Tytherley, Longstock, Michelmersh, Millbrook, Mottisfont, Nether Wallop, Nursling and Rownhams, Over Wallop, Sherfield English and Stockbridge.

SECTION F.—Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There was an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery at a Nursery, one child developed it shortly after admission, three of the staff and twenty-five children contracted it and all twenty-eight were admitted to Hospital. There was one death.

There was a slight epidemic of measles, one severe case was admitted to Hospital. Ten slight cases occurring in a Nursery were all admitted to Hospital.

An outbreak of Whooping Cough occurred of moderate severity. Diphtheria Immunisation—85 per cent. of the children under school age and 81 per cent. of those of school age have been immunised.

There were six cases of Diphtheria but no cases occurred among immunised children.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Disease	Total number notified -	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	37	27	0
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Pneumonia	12	0	0
Measles	55	11	1
Whooping Cough	65	1	0
Erysipelas	4	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	0
Cerebro Spinal	2	2	2
Paratyphoid	2	2	0
Sonne Dysentery	28	28	1

CANCER.

Deaths :—Males 15, Females 26.. Total 41.

The number of deaths is above the average.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases notified 15. Pulmonary Males 9. Females 5.

Non Pulmonary Males 1. Females 0.

This is above the average, which is about 7.

Number of deaths 12. This is also above the average, which is about 6.

The increase in the number of notifications of Tuberculosis is probably partly attributable to the medical examinations carried out under the Service Acts of persons who would not normally have been examined, and partly to the fact that some people living in the Country have gone to work in areas, where they were more likely to be exposed to infection.

Some of the notifications are really those of Town people, who have come to live in the District since the war.

There is an increase also in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis. This may be due to deficiencies in the diet, probably fats, or it may be due to lack of acquired immunity.

Some of the people living in the Country probably have not acquired resistance to Tuberculosis, owing to not being exposed to small doses of infection.

TABLE.
Causes of death in Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District, 1943.

Cause of Death	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	126	127
Cerebro Spinal F.	2	—
Whooping Cough	1	—
Diphtheria	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	5
Syphilis	—	1
Influenza	2	5
Measles	—	1
Ac Enceph	—	1
Cancer	15	26
Diabetes	1	3
Intra Cranial	7	9
Heart	29	28
Other Circulatory	6	4
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia	4	3
Other Resp.	4	2
Ulcer Stom.	1	—
Appendicitis	1	1
Other Digestive	2	3
Nephritis	7	3
Other Maternal	—	5
Premature Birth	—	2
Congenital and Birth Inj.	2	3
Suicide	2	—
Road Traffic	5	—
Other Violent	1	2
All Other	21	17

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
G. TATE, Medical Officer of Health.

